

23 May 2025

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 32

After half term, Y11 and Y13 students will be on study leave. During the first week back, the normal timetable will run for Y9, Y10 and Y12. There will be trips out of school in Madrid and Kenya. We will also welcome Mrs Laura Warland who will be assuming her role as Assistant Head Teacher SENDCo on Monday 2 June.

In the second week (week beginning 9 June) it will be REA week. There will be a different timetable for students in Y9 and Y10 who will be involved in a range of activities linked to careers, sport, STEM and life skills. Students will receive details after half term. During that week Y12 students will be out of school on work experience. On Monday 16 June, the students will move to their new timetable.

Sustainability and climate action planning

Over the course of this year, certain staff across Hadrian Learning Trust have been working with government-funded external advisors and others to develop a climate action plan that will in time enable our schools to become more sustainable, as part of the wider national drive towards net zero.



We have undertaken an audit of our current approaches and provision across seven areas – water usage, transport, grounds, buildings, food, energy use and consumption – to inform this plan. The initial draft primarily focuses on establishing good habits around, for example, resource and energy use in order to minimise waste and to cut costs. We also intend a re-invigoration of our pupil and student green teams and a review of our curriculum to ensure that we are developing the knowledge and skills that will serve our young people well in the future in relation to climate change.

We see this as a long-term commitment – a journey if you like that will involve all staff, pupils, students, trustees and parents over the coming years as we seek to become better informed and more sustainable in our outlook and practice. We will keep you posted along the way.

Respect

Attendance

Today students with 100% attendance this term were taking part in a draw to win a £20 voucher. Congratulations to the randomly selected winners Phoebe T, Jake L, Beth N, Louise T and Geoff B.

Being in school, meeting people and doing activities helps social development and positive mental health. When we review outcomes data there is a clear correlation between attendance and performance. Students make better progress and achieve higher outcomes when they attend. In the newsletter each week I will show you our current attendance data for each year group. Our school target is 95%. We know that some students will struggle to attend school so please speak to

Queen Elizabeth High School

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, NE46 3JB

T: 01434 610300 E: admin@qehs.net

www.qehs.net

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

their form tutor, Head of Year or Mrs Curry if you have any concerns. We work with families to help students overcome barriers to attending school.

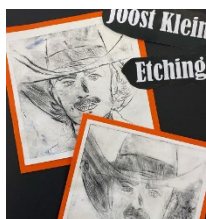
Attendance week (week ending 16 May)				
Year group	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	All years
Percentage	93.4%	90.9%	90%	91.7%

Engage

Art Exhibition invitations

Attached to this newsletter you will find invitations to **two** forthcoming art shows.

The QE 2025 art exhibition on Thursday 26 June 2026, held in school, which celebrates our amazing sixth form student art, and the opening event of the exhibition 'Vivid Memories' in the Queen's Hall on Thursday 19 June with work from last year's sixth form students. The exhibition will run from 14 June until 6 July. You will also find the information on our website.



Year 10 art

Graphics have made some [amazing drypoint etchings](#) with sharp needles and very messy ink!

DofE Bronze trek update

Well done to our Bronze 2024/5 Duke of Edinburgh group for showing fantastic teamwork and resilience hiking for two days in very warm weather along Hadrian's Wall. Each team had an expedition goal and we look forward to students sharing the results of this in their presentations in a few weeks. [See more photos on our website](#) >>



Aspire

Career of the week

This week's Career of the Week was 'Hydrographic Surveyor'.

The following link will take you to further information on 'Unifrog':

[Unifrog: Hydrographic Surveyor](#)

This includes Labour Market Information (LMI). It is important both parents and students are aware of this as it includes current and predicted figures relating to the profession, particular attention should be paid to the expected growth figure. All students have received a 'Welcome'

email from Unifrog. This can be found in their school email account. Please encourage them to activate their account if they haven't already done so.

We also have a 'dummy' code for parents. Use 'QEHSparent' on this page: unifrog.org/code.

Sixth Form

Work experience week

Year 12 students undertake a compulsory week of work experience to give a greater understanding of the world of work in their chosen area and help build links for future employment opportunities. The school will help where possible, but ultimately it is down to students themselves to organise their placement. Work experience week takes place from Monday 9 June to Friday 13 June.

Students who haven't already found a placement are encouraged to use:

<https://www.unifrog.org/placement/guides>.

Sixth form noticeboard

Opportunities and advice for employment, volunteering and university are regularly promoted via the website, within the [Sixth Form Noticeboard](#).

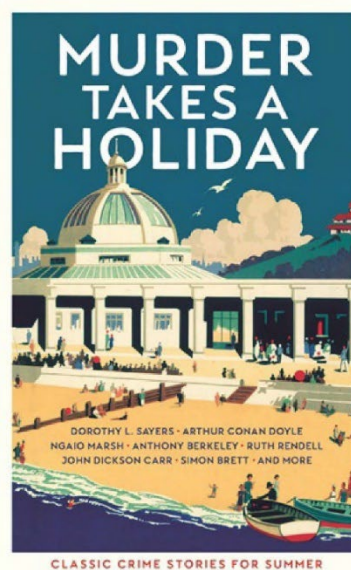
We rely on parents 'feeding' opportunities into the students, so if an organisation you are involved with is doing something in the future that a young person may find inspiring, please email sixthform@qehs.net. Equally, if you would like to advertise local job opportunities (paid or voluntary) please send the details.

LRC read

This week's LRC recommended read is an anthology of crime stories with a Summer theme. There are some well known authors in there: Ruth Rendell, Arthur Conan Doyle et al.

The summer holidays are a chance to escape from it all, to shrug off the troubles and cares of everyday life, and lounge on warm sands or sip a cool drink in the shade of a city square. But, as the characters in this murderously good collection of classic crime stories discover to their cost ... sometimes it's not that easy to escape your fate.

An impossible murder on a Cornish beach. A honeymoon in the Italian lakes that becomes a desperate search for the truth. An African safari that ends with the tables being turned. Even in a heatwave, these tales of murder and malice will chill you like a shadow sliding across the sun.



Online Safety

For Parents - Should Your Child Have a Smartphone?

It's the big question that's been around for years, but there's no single answer that will fit every age, there's no single piece of advice that will fit every family dynamic.

My friend and fellow consultant Wayne Denner has put together a simple article which I think will help parents ask the right questions in order to come up with an informed decision. In his article, Wayne asks what is the appropriate age, he delves into the hidden impact of social media and filter bubbles, then gives some advice about ground rules and agreements.

You can find Wayne's article [HERE](#).

For Parents - Pinterest Privacy and Safety Settings

Pinterest is an enormous and hugely popular platform. Known as a 'visual discovery engine' which basically means it is a user-to-user platform, meaning that individual users upload content for anyone else to see. You can use it for a variety of things to get ideas, create mood boards, scrapbooks and so much more. I use it myself for inspiration for my drawing projects.

But because it is user to user there will be content that isn't suitable for everyone. Back in 2022, during the inquest into the death of a 14 year old, even Pinterest admitted the [platform wasn't safe](#).

Internet matters have an excellent page full of advice and guidance about filtering content, reporting tools and more which you can find [HERE](#). (by Alan McKenzie, online safety advisor)

News from the community

Prom & Rosie's Corner

Rosie's Corner is a local community charity that supports families by providing essential items such as clothing, school uniforms, and seasonal wear. As prom season approaches, they want to ensure that every young person has the opportunity to feel confident and included — regardless of financial circumstances.

They currently have a wide range of **prom items available for free**, including:



Dresses



Suits



Shoes



Bags and accessories

Families are welcome to **take what they need or borrow and return items after prom night**. There's no referral process needed — just a warm welcome and a supportive space.

Opening hours: **Monday to Thursday, 10am–2pm** families can simply drop in to see what's available.

Autism Family drop in Summer sessions

[Find out More >>](#)

Understanding your child - Free online support

[Find Out More >>](#)

Hexham football club opportunity

[Courant Article >>](#)

Hexham FC Open Sessions:

U16 Year 12 Girls Open Session on Sunday 08/06/25 11:00am -12:00pm

U15 Year 9 & 10 Girls Open Session on Thursday 12/06/25 19:30 - 20:30pm

Please note that Players are permitted to play up one age group but not down. Any School Year group is a guide for the maximum age allowed.

[Register today >>](#)

or text/WhatsApp Andy Auld on 07503194251 for more information.

QEHS Parent Teacher & Friends Association news

PTFA Lottery

Tickets for the lottery are £1 per entry with 2 monthly cash prizes. Entry is simple and online. For more information and to sign up complete the [online application](#) or email qehsprizedraw@gmail.com.



Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Friday 23 May	School closes at 3.20pm for half term	All year groups
Monday 2 June	School reopens at 8.40am	All year groups
Monday 9 June until Friday 13 June	REA week	Year 9 and Year 10
Monday 9 June until Friday 13 June	Work Experience week	Year 12

Thursday 19 June	Art Summer Exhibition (Queen's Hall) Opening 4.30-7pm	All welcome
Thursday 26 June	Art Summer Exhibition (QEHS) 5-7pm	All welcome
Thursday 3 July	Year 11 Prom	Year 11

Free School Meals

If you feel that your child may be eligible for free school meals, please read the criteria and make an application as soon as you can. Find out more on the [Northumberland County Council website](#). To apply, please [complete this form](#) via Northumberland County Council.

Yours faithfully



Neil Seaton
Head of School

Pupil support and safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leader: Mrs Hattie Curry

Deputy Safeguarding Leaders: Mr Emerson Brown, Mr Alex Robson.

SENDCo: Ms Laura Warland (from 2nd June 2025). Interim: Ms Lucy Mackenzie and Ms Di Cunningham.

Please remember that we are here to support you and your child at any time. You can contact us via the main office (phone) or by email admin@gehs.net

For queries regarding attendance or absence, please email attendance@gehs.net